

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00201 101540Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0201

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, IS
SUBJECT: INR ANALYSIS OF ISRAELI POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: STATE 003916

1. THE INR ANALYSIS IS A GOOD, CONCISE SUMMARY OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AT THE MOMENT. WE GENERALLY AGREE WITH ITS MAIN POINTS, I.E., THE OFER SUICIDE WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RABIN'S EFFORTS TO RETAIN LEADERSHIP OF THE LABOR PARTY AND, TOGETHER WITH THE YADLIN TRIAL, WILL PROBABLY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PARTY'S PROSPECTS IN THE MAY ELECTION ALTHOUGH WE TEND TO BE LESS CERTAIN ABOUT THE LATTER CONSEQUENCE. MUCH DEPENDS ON WHAT EMERGES FROM THE YADLIN TRIAL AND ON WHETHER THERE IS A CHANGE IN LABOR'S LEADERSHIP. THE SELECTION OF DEFENSE MINISTER PERES TO HEAD LABOR'S LIST WOULD MINIMIZE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE OFER TRAGEDY, PARTICULARLY IF PERES WOULD INTRODUCE SOME "NEW FACES" INTO THE GOVERNMENT.

2. RE SEVERAL DETAILS OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IN THE PAPER'S ARGUMENT: WE CAUTION AGAINST CITING FIGURES FROM THE DECEMBER 31 YEDIOT AHARONOT POLL. YEDIOT'S POLL IS STILL UNTESTED AND DOES NOT ENJOY THE STATURE OF THE PORI POLL, FOR EXAMPLE. THE DECEMBER 31 SURVEY SHOULD BE TAKEN AS ONLY A VERY ROUGH INDICATION OF CURRENT OPINION. (THE REFERENCE TO 53 SEATS IN THE ALIGNMENT'S PRESENT KNESSET

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STRENGTH, PARA 2, REFTEL, VS. 33 IN THE YEDIOT POLL IS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING. ONLY WITH THE THREE SEATS OF ITS TWO ARAB PARTY ALLIES DOES THE ALIGNMENT HAVE 53, AND THE 33 SEATS IN THE YEDIOT POLL SHOULD BE COMPARED WITH THE ALIGNMENT'S PRESENT 50 KNESSET SEATS). RE THE LAST POINT IN PARA 5, REFTEL: WE SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE, AT LEAST THUS FAR, THAT THE SCANDAL INVOLVING AMNON RUBENSTEIN HAS AFFECTED YADLIN'S

IMAGE--THOUGH THIS COULD STILL HAPPEN AS THE INVESTIGATION
OF RUBENSTEIN'S FATHER AND BROTHERS PROCEEDS.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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